Approved for Release 200 MINZO COA REP 82-00457R00330029000Z REPORT NO. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 26 OCT 49

SUBJECT Gzechoslovak Army Maneuvers, 1-14 August 1949

NO. OF PAGES

25X1A

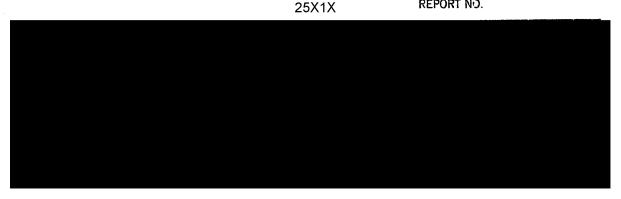
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Purpose of the Manauvers:

The Czechoslovak Army conducted raneuvers during the period 1-15 August 1949 with the following objectives in mind:

- To gain experience; specifically, to acquaint commanders and the staffs with:
 - Combat and pursuit of the enemy in mountainous and wooded areas.
 - 2) Combat in encirclement.
 - Encirclement of the enemy.
 - 4) Breaking out of encirclement.
- To check the following factors:

CLASSIFICATION

- Tire required for movement of troops.
- Time required for loading and unloading proops.
- Use of units in combat immediately after a long march.
- Possibility of extended use of tractors for the transportation of troops and equipment.
- Activity of troops in the rear.
- Political and noral value of individual units.

The problem:

The Blue troops had attacked Czechoslovakia, while the people were working on the reaceful reconstruction of their country. The Czechoslovak army (Red troops), with the assistance of the people, had succeeded in stopping the enemy only after a supreme effort, defeating the enemy forces on the left bank of the Elbe River, and forcing them to retreat westwards. The retreat of the Blue Army was being covered south of the Krusne Hory (Erzgebirge) by two higher units in the direction of Chomutov-Klasterec n/O-Falknov and Louny-M. Tepla. Between these two areas, the retreat was covered by the 90th Motorized Battalion and other reinforcement units in the Dourove Hory area. In the north and in the south the Blue Army was pursued by a Red Army Corps in each region. Between these two corps, pursuit of the Blue Arry was carried out by the Red IX Arry Corps, this a ction constituting the problem of the maneuvers.

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3. Course of the Maneuvers:

- a. During the actual conduct of the maneuvers, the Blue Army 90th Motorized Battalion, which carried out a retreating fight, was supposed to take up prepared defensive positions on the Tepla River. The Blue Army 43rd Motorized Brigade meanwhile took up defensive positions on a line approximately going through Litrbachy-Sangerberg. The 90th Motorized Battalion was unable to hold the defensive position on the Tepla River very long and was obliged to withdraw.
- b. After contacting the defensive position of the 43rd Motorized Brigade, the Commander of the Red Army IX Corps decided to attack this position on the southern wing with the 22nd Division, 31st Division, and 46th Infantry Regiment. When the break-through had succeeded in the north and in the south, the commander of the Red Army IX Corps received the task of encircling the enemy in the Cisarsky Les (Kaiservald) and destroying him. On the other hand, during the night of 13 August 1949, the 43rd Motorized Brigade (Blue Army) was given the task of breaking through the encirclement in a northerly direction, which task it successfully completed.

A. Participating Units:

a. Blue Units (Commander: Colonel of the General Staff Rytir)

Motorized Battalion 90 Motorized Brigade 43 (The Blue Army used 1 parachute company in several groups for antitank purposes)

b. Red Units (Commander, IX Corps (actually 3rd Corps): Brigadier General Broz)

Liaison Battalion 9 Engineer Battalion 9 Regimental Artillery 9th Battalion

Company VKPL 22

22nd Infantry Division (actually the 12th)
Infantry Regiment 12
Infantry Regiment 14
Infantry Regiment 84
Artillery Regiment 8
Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion 358
Artillery Battalion 198
Signal Battalion 22
Engineer Battalion 22
Reconnaiscance Company 22

31st Infantry Division (actually the 11th)
Infantry Regiment 16
Infantry Regiment 28
Infantry Regiment 40
Artillery Regiment 12
Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion 262
Artillery Battalion 188
Signal Battalion 31
Engineer Battalion 31
Reconnaissance Battalion 31
Company VKFL 31

34th Infantry Division (supposed) 46 Infantry Regiment

Fast Attack Group
Tank Brigade 26
Motor Battalion 48
Artillery Regiment 209
Artillery Battalion 256
Signal Company
Motor Battalion 54

Motor Battalion 54
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18th Artillery Brigade
Artillery Battalion 321
Artillery Battalion 320
Artillery Battalion 322
MDO 410

19th Artillery Brigade
Artillery Battalion 323
Artillery Battalion 324
Artillery Regiment 115

(The Red Army used one parachute battalion; however, because of a lack of airplane facilities only nine planes were supposed to drop troops; the other troops were supposed to be brought by trucks, but because of bad weather the entire battalion was brought to the area in trucks.)